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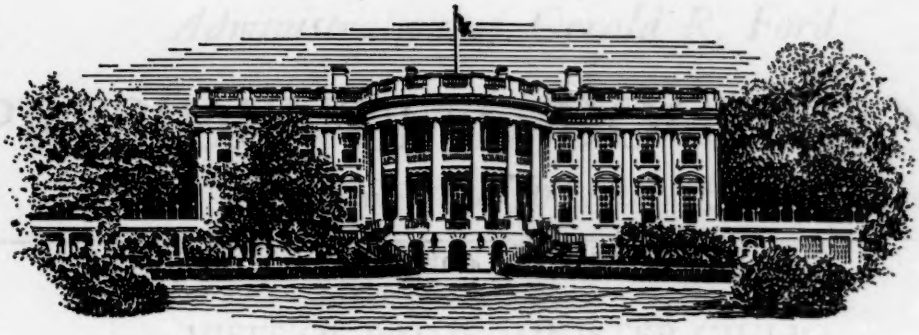

Weekly Compilation of
PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Monday, December 13, 1976

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WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

Presidential Documents

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Administration of Gerald R. Ford

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Week Ending Friday, December 10, 1976

VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI OF ITALY

Exchange of Remarks Between the President and the Prime Minister at the Welcoming Ceremony on the South Lawn. December 6, 1976

THE PRESIDENT. Prime Minister Andreotti, I am delighted to welcome you and your party to Washington, D.C., our National Capital.

Mr. Prime Minister, I have long looked forward to this meeting—since July, when you took office as President of the Council of Ministers.

Since that time, you have worked intensely and with great courage and determination on the difficult issues facing your nation and your government. I am extremely pleased that you have found time for this visit and for consultations on the broad range of interests shared by our two governments.

During the last 2 years, the United States and Italy have consulted at the highest levels with greater frequency than ever before. President Leone's state visit to the United States in 1974 was the first state visit of this administration. Our leaders have met at NATO summits and economic summits and at the European Security Conference. I remember with great warmth, my own trip to your country a year and a half ago and the friendship extended to me on behalf of the American people by the Italian people and by your government.

We are friends. We are allies. We have worked together and solved problems together. We will do so in the future.

Few countries have so special a place in the hearts of the American people. The United States and Italy are committed to freedom and share a firm dedication to democracy. We are both committed to the strength of the North Atlantic Alliance and to the reduction of tensions which threaten international peace and stability.

Americans value the constructive role of Italy in the world today and in the past. We deeply appreciate Italy's contribution to NATO, your contribution to a stronger Europe—working together with the United States—your contribution to the dialog with the developing nations, and your dedication to peace and international understanding.

Mr. Prime Minister, our two governments have made it a priority task to strengthen the North Atlantic Alliance. The Alliance has made progress in strengthening its defenses, standardizing equipment, and

coordination of strategies and planning. Nevertheless, much more needs to be done.

All of us know that the defensive strength and the cohesion of our Alliance are crucial to the balance of power in Europe that is so critical to European freedom and international security.

Our Alliance, of course, has a purpose beyond military defense. The United States and Italy both recognize that Western Europe unity is a pillar of world peace. We must reduce tensions and reduce the possibility of confrontation in Central Europe, where almost 2 million armed men face one another. We must promote mutually beneficial cooperation between Western and Eastern Europe.

The industrial democracies, if we are to be the masters of our own destiny, must work together, for we share basic, common interests on global issues—from defense to energy, the environment, trade, and relations with the developing countries of the world.

Mr. Prime Minister, our discussions on these many issues will be of great value to the United States not only in practical terms, but to reaffirm our profound friendship. Few nations are linked as strongly as the United States of America and the Republic of Italy by history, culture, economics, and the emigration of peoples. Our friendship has deep roots that insure its preservation.

Italy's contribution was one of the highlights of America's Bicentennial celebration. We especially welcomed, Mr. Prime Minister, the visit of Mrs. Vittoria Leone, the First Lady of Italy, when the La Scala Opera came here for its spectacular performance. The American people thank you for this wonderful presentation.

I look forward with great anticipation, Mr. Prime Minister, to our discussions today and tonight. As two democratic allies, we have a large area of common ground and many common concerns.

I bid you and your party, on behalf of the American people, a hearty welcome to the United States of America.

THE PRIME MINISTER. Mr. President, I am deeply grateful for the invitation you were kind enough to extend to me at a particularly challenging time for my country.

Two years after the visit of President Leone—whom you kindly mentioned—your invitation confirms, through the frequency of our meetings, the spirit of close and sincere friendship between the United States and Italy. And I equally thank you for the warm words you just expressed about my country and myself.

The United States and Italy are bound by ties of alliance and cooperation, by harmonious ideals of democracy, and by choices of peace, freedom, and development. The Atlantic Alliance, which binds our two nations in a common objective of defense, represents a guarantee of security for the Western world to which we belong for historical vocation and on account of political choice, which proves to be an essential element of the international strategic balance, basic condition for a détente policy which will create the basis of a long-lasting peace.

With the same objectives of peace and progress, Italy is engaged, together with its partners of the European community, in a policy of unity which will permit Europe to contribute to the creation of a more just and stable world.

Many elements unite us—the interest in social and cultural progress, in the advancement of science, in respect of men; in the choice of a style of life which guarantees and protects, to the greatest extent, the development of capabilities and potential for initiative of the individual; the awareness, both political and moral, of a necessary interrelationship and solidarity among all nations; the search for international order, which emphasizes at the same time the rights of men and those of nations; a vision of international relations which aim, to quote the unforgettable words of George Washington's farewell speech, to observe good faith and justice toward nations and cultivate peace and harmony with everybody.

But beyond these common ideals, our two countries are joined by the presence in this hospitable country of America of a large community of Italian Americans who, through their work and human qualities, honored their land of origin and contributed to the increased prosperity and greatness of their new country.

The Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence of the United States reminds us of the ideals of the Founding Fathers who are both yours and ours, founders of the United States and those of major instruments of an era of Western history which brought man and his freedom to the center of our civilization.

The American Revolution is an element of the continuity of Western history and also renews it. It allows the Western World to accept the challenges of science, technology, industry, and to carry out a social transformation which is of paramount importance within the framework of a humanistic society, inspired in the values rediscovered by the Renaissance men. This era of the Western World's history cannot be considered complete. Its motivations and hopes are still alive. The ideal thrust must renew itself through a constant critical search for the most adequate objectives in order to accept present and future challenges. To this purpose, we are stimulated by the commitment and the concerns of the new generation.

Mr. President, during the scheduled meetings we will deal with many issues, because the present circumstances present many problems and they require an effort of imagination and understanding. But the guarantee of their success is given by the spirit of openness and sincerity which always characterized the Italian-American relationships during the past 30 years.

Mr. President, on behalf of the President of the Italian Republic, of the Italian Government, and conveying the feelings of the Italian people, I bring you warm and friendly greetings which I extend to Mrs. Ford and to your entire family.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:45 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House where Prime Minister Andreotti was given a formal welcome with full military honors.

The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Visit of Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti of Italy

Exchange of Toasts Between the President and the Prime Minister at a Dinner Honoring the Prime Minister. December 6, 1976

THE PRESIDENT. *Thank you all very, very much, Mr. Prime Minister, distinguished Italian guests, ladies and gentlemen:*

President Leone was the first state visitor that I had the high honor and rare privilege to welcome as President of the United States. Tonight, we are once again celebrating the official visit of a very distinguished Italian leader, our guest tonight, Prime Minister Andreotti. These two visits symbolize the very close friendship of our two countries and the continuity of American support for a very trusted and valued ally.

Earlier this autumn, we welcomed the visit of the Italian First Lady, Mrs. Vittoria Leone, who added her grace as well as her friendship to the already impressive Italian contribution to our Bicentennial. The performances of the La Scala Opera, the loan of the Venus de Medici to our National Gallery, Italian participation in the tall ships review and many other Bicentennial activities were symbols of what Americans have gained from our relationship. For this, the American people are most appreciative and deeply in debt to the people of Italy and to your government.

The gift that Mrs. Leone presented on behalf of the Italian people, a portrait of Thomas Jefferson, which hung for nearly 200 years in the Convent of Lodi, today hangs in the Oval Office in the White House complex. This is a treasured reminder of Italian-American friendship.

Mr. Prime Minister, for two centuries Italian culture has enriched the life of the United States with many, many unique contributions. Historians point out that Thomas Jefferson, in writing the Declaration of Independence, drew on the wisdom of his Italian friend, Filippo Mazzei, in the drafting of several very, now, immortal phrases. As a matter of fact, our Capitol Building is enhanced by Italian art and Italian artisans. The very name America commemorates an Italian.

Along with Italy's cultural contributions came millions of American immigrants. America is very, very proud of its citizens of Italian origin. I happen to believe this is perhaps Italy's greatest contribution to America, and we are truly grateful for it.

We Americans have tried to reciprocate, Mr. Prime Minister, by showing the Italian people how much we value them as our friends. This was the spirit behind the Marshall Plan, and it was demonstrated again last May when an earthquake struck in northern Italy, in Friuli. The response of the American people, our Congress, the executive branch, was immediate. Legislation was enacted in record time, and Senator Pastore was one of the initial authors of that legislation. That contribution has been helpful in the construction or reconstruction of schools and hospitals in that part of Italy. It has helped to rebuild the lives and the homes of those people who were unfortunately the victims of that earthquake.

Mr. Prime Minister, present conditions pose a very severe challenge to the industrial democracies of the West, many of which have suffered from recession, unemployment, inflation, and the abrupt and steep rise in energy costs.

As we noted this morning, Mr. Prime Minister, this is particularly a challenging time for Italy. But your government reacted vigorously and your government acted resolutely. I and, I believe, most Americans are tremendously impressed by your efforts and your successes. Under your continuing strong leadership, I am confident that Italy can return to a balanced growth and economic vitality. This is important to Italy, but it is equally important to America—in part because of the vital interests we share as industrial democracies.

The American people have made clear their commitment to democracy and democratic methods. I am equally convinced that Italy will maintain its very strong commitment to the common goals that we share as partners in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; a secure peace, democratic freedom, and economic well-being for all of our people.

Mr. Prime Minister, I know that you are an admirer of the great Roman statesman, Cicero, his words, and I quote, "When good men of like character are joined in friendship, there we find the noblest and the strongest union." In the discussions that we had this morning following your coming to the White House, we had an opportunity to reinforce my conviction that his words aptly describe the relationship between our two people.

It is with pleasure and a great deal of confidence, Mr. Prime Minister, that I express the continued best wishes of the American people, as well as the continued full support of the United States of America, our Government, for your Government and the policies that it is following.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to the Prime Minister of Italy, to the enduring friendship between our two countries, and to our mutual commitment to peace, freedom, and progress for all mankind.

THE PRIME MINISTER. Mr. President, first of all I am particularly grateful to you for having organized this gathering of so many prominent American personalities among whom I see so many connected with my country by origin and by spiritual affinity.

It is a delightful crowning of the first part of my working visit to Washington. And this bears witness once more to the fact that the ties between our two countries are

not represented only by political and economic interests and in general by collective interests, they are to be found in the ever more numerous individual and private contacts at all levels and in all sectors.

Your country offers us familiar images and echoes. We can see the classical aspects of palladian inspiration in your Nation's Capital. There is the presence of millions of individuals who are deeply loyal American citizens, still deeply attached to the land of their fathers.

This presence makes our relationship very spontaneous and creative. It ranges from the contribution of untold thousands to the individual achievements in the field of politics, science, arts, information, show business, music, and cinema. We Italians look with pride to this other Italy transplanted in the United States, and it is natural for us to think back to the hopes of our navigators, who came seeking a land of development and expansion for the overflowing energies of the Western World.

It is particularly appropriate to recall during the celebration of the Bicentennial of your Declaration of Independence that the strongest tie between our two countries is represented by this very possibility, which was offered throughout the two centuries of your history—for the people coming from Italy to participate on an equal footing in the construction of your great democracy.

One of the Americans of Italian extraction who has succeeded in obtaining a position of prominence in this country is John Volpe, Ambassador of the United States, who is with us. In thanking him for the constant and passionate contribution he has given to the cause of friendship and solidarity between our two countries, I wish to pay a well-deserved tribute to the whole Italian-American community.

Italy is at present going through one of the most challenging periods of her recent history. The international economic crisis has hit our country at a time when it was attempting to correct some of the most serious imbalances typical of an accelerated expansion between the different social strata and the different regions in order to meet the expectations of a society which wants to be more just and better balanced. Obviously, the crisis has exacerbated those contradictions which the dynamics of development had hidden or at least attenuated, putting them now in sharper focus and making them, let's face it, more dramatic.

The Italian people as a whole have responded to these events with a deep sense of responsibility. The majority of the political parties, the trade unions and employers organizations are aware of the seriousness of the situation, and they know that in order to surmount our difficulties, sacrifices are required of all of the Italians. This common will to overcome the crisis, this pervasive conviction that without a collective effort the country will not be able to get back on its feet, sustain the minority government which I lead and encourage it to move with determination in the complex political, economic, and social climate of the country.

If in these difficult hours we Italians succeed in stressing what binds us rather than what divides us, I am convinced that we will be able to recover and resume our economic and social progress.

Turning our attention to foreign policy, we become aware that there has been an increased acceptance of the major objectives which Italy pursues on the international scene. In our country there are no longer reservations about Italian participation in the European and Atlantic communities. The support which is now publicly expressed on the guidelines of our foreign policy must therefore be viewed as an indication of the growing popular consensus on the national goals and interests.

Italy's foreign policy has not suffered from the adverse effects of economic crisis or of the political difficulties. It does show unwavering continuity and total adherence to its commitment.

We are determined, Mr. President, to enforce our friendly relations with all peoples, to seek wider and far-reaching avenues of agreement with the developing countries, to contribute actively to détente with the East.

I wish to emphasize that all these goals stem from a steady political platform, namely our participation in the process of European integration and our membership in the Inter-Atlantic Alliance. These two goals are in no way contradictory for the European identity is not defined in opposition to the United States, but rather as an additional factor to the solidarity which binds us.

Mr. President, the problems before the Italian Government today have a dimension that goes beyond the boundaries of our country and, therefore, cannot be solved purely on a national basis. We are convinced, however, that an adequate solution to these problems must be found first of all in the will and the ability for recovery that Italy has always shown throughout her history. We are deeply aware that it is first and foremost through our sacrifices that we will recover. What we ask of our friends is that they trust us as we trust them, and that they believe in our commitment and in our determination.

Mr. President, allow me, please, to conclude on a personal note. This visit of mine takes place at a time when your administration, which has been marked by a strengthening of the cooperation among Western countries, is drawing to a close. Your tenure has confirmed the continuity of a strong and positive relationship based upon mutual friendship and trust between the United States and Italy. We Italians have consistently found in you, Mr. President, a sincere friend. We know that we can continue to rely on your friendship and understanding.

It is with this conviction that I raise my glass to make a toast to your personal happiness, to that of Mrs. Ford

and of all of your family, to the prosperity of your great country, and to the profound friendship between the United States and Italy.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:20 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House.

The Prime Minister spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Announcement of Recess Appointment of Benjamin Reifel as Commissioner. December 7, 1976

The President today announced the appointment of Benjamin Reifel, of Aberdeen, S. Dak., as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior. This is a recess appointment. He succeeds Morris Thompson, who resigned effective November 3, 1976.

Born on September 19, 1906, in Parmelee, S. Dak., Mr. Reifel received his B.S. degree from South Dakota State University in 1932. He attended Harvard University and received his M.A. degree in 1950 and his Ph. D. in 1952. He served in the United States Army as an officer from 1942 to 1945.

In 1960, Mr. Reifel was elected to the 87th Congress and was elected successively to the 88th, 89th, 90th, and 91st Congresses. While a member of Congress, he served on the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on Appropriations, and Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies.

Mr. Reifel is married and has one daughter.

Brandy Imports

Proclamation 4480. December 8, 1976

CONTINUANCE OF DUTY ON CERTAIN BRANDY

By the President of the United States of America a Proclamation

1. Proclamation No. 4478, of November 26, 1976, modifies item 945.16 of the Appendix to the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS) (19 U.S.C. 1202) to change the rates of duty on certain brandy provided for in items 168.28 and 168.32 of the TSUS to $3 per gallon, effective with respect to all articles that are both (i) imported, and (ii) entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on and after December 10, 1976.

2. Pursuant to Section 125(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2135(c)), as noted in recital 5 of Proclamation No. 4478, the President is authorized to proclaim increased duties or other import restrictions, to the extent, at such times, and for such periods as he deems necessary or appropriate, in order to exercise the rights or fulfill the obligations of the United States. Section 125(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2135(b)) authorizes the termination, in whole or in part, of any proclamation issued pursuant to the Trade Act of 1974.

3. I have determined that the rate of duty for brandy, provided for in items 168.28 and 168.32, TSUS, valued over $17 per gallon, should continue to be $5 per gallon.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and statutes of the United States of America, including Section 125 of the Trade Act of 1974, in the exercise of the rights of the United States, do hereby proclaim, until the President otherwise proclaims or until otherwise superseded by law, that:

A. Paragraph A of the dispositive part of Proclamation No. 4478 is terminated.

B. Proclamation No. 4478 of November 26, 1976, is amended by deleting paragraph B of the dispositive part thereof and by substituting in lieu thereof the following paragraphs B and C:

"B. (1) Proclamation No. 4304 of July 16, 1974, is terminated to the extent inconsistent with this proclamation.

"(2) Subpart B of part 2 of the Appendix to the TSUS is modified by deleting therefrom item number 945.16, and by inserting in lieu thereof the following new items:

Item	Article	Rate of duty 1	Rate of duty 2
	Brandy:		
	Provided for in item 168.28:		
945.17	Valued over $13 but not over $17 per gallon	$3	No change
945.18	Valued over $17 per gallon	$5 per gal.	No change
	Provided for in item 168.32:		
945.19	Valued over $9 but not over $17 per gallon	$3 per gal.	No change
945.20	Valued over $17 per gallon	$5 per gal.	No change

"C. (1) The modifications made by paragraph B of this proclamation shall be effective as to all articles that are both

(i) imported, and

(ii) entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption,

on or after December 26, 1976.

(2) Articles imported before December 26, 1976, but thereafter entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, shall receive the rate of duty applicable at the time of importation."

C. This proclamation shall be effective as of November 26, 1976.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and first.

GERALD R. FORD

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:45 p.m., December 8, 1976]

Meeting With Republican Leaders

Remarks of the President, Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Former Governor John B. Connally in a Question-and-Answer Session With Reporters. December 9, 1976

THE PRESIDENT. The Vice President and Governor Connally and myself have agreed to come out here to indicate the context of the meeting. You had an opportunity to see and to question Governor Reagan. The four of us met because I felt that it would be highly desirable for the four of us to sit and try to see what could be done to make certain that we have a viable two-party system in this country. We think it's absolutely essential for the political health of the United States that there be competition in the political arena, and the best way to do it is through a strong Republican Party competing against the Democrats.

We really decided three things: Number one, that we would continue to meet, and we tentatively agreed to meet the first week in January. We agreed that there should be formed a coordinating committee-type of organization, similar to the one that was put together in 1965 following the 1964 election. We agreed that there were five or six potential Republican National Committee chairmen that were all experienced, that all had assets and opportunities, that we would not pick or choose as a group, any one of the individuals. That was the responsibility of the National Republican Committee.

So, with those observations, the Vice President, Governor Connally, and myself will be glad to respond to any questions.

Q. Mr. President, is Governor Connally one of those five or six who you think is on the list to be national chairman?

THE PRESIDENT. I think the Governor ought to respond to that.

GOVERNOR CONNALLY. Well I think I made it abundantly clear, as I tried to do the other day at the meeting of the Republican Governors, that I'm really not available. And I don't foresee any circumstances under which I would be.

Q. Governor, we got exactly the opposite impression from what you said the other day. We thought you were available.

GOVERNOR CONNALLY. Sarah, I can't interpret for you. I tried to say that I have never been a candidate. As I recall what I said then, I said I've never been a candidate, I'm not now a candidate, I never will be a candidate. There would have to be two conditions precedent before I would even seriously think about it, and that would be that I would have to be publicly endorsed by the President, by the Vice President—by Governor Rockefeller—and that I would be asked to take it on the basis of not taking it as a full time job, which flies in the face of the rules that now exist. And I thought that in itself was a sufficient answer to indicate that I'd laid down two conditions, neither of which probably would be met. But I want to make it stronger today to be sure there is not any misunderstanding. And I do not foresee any circumstances under which I would be available.

Q. Mr. President, what did you think of Mrs. Smith's description of Governor Reagan as being part of the far right?

THE PRESIDENT. It's my understanding that Governor Reagan answered that question, and I would let his words speak for themselves.

Q. Mr. President, could you tell us who the five or six qualified chairmen are that you all have agreed on, one, and, two, would you and the Vice President endorse Governor Connally for chairman as he has given that as a qualification?

THE PRESIDENT. First, let me say I would hesitate to list those individuals. The names have been bandied around, but I don't think we should say here today that this is the only particular group. There may be another candidate or two that might appear and, therefore, if I mentioned five, it would be unfair to those that might emerge in the future.

Q. Mr. President, what role do you see for yourself in party affairs after January 20, with particular reference to the coordinating committee you speak of?

THE PRESIDENT. I certainly intend to be involved in Republican politics. I would hope to be a member of the

coordinating committee. I think it worked in 1965 and 1966, and I'm confident that it can be a very effective organization in 1977 and 1978.

Q. Mr. President, do you see any problems of ideological differences afterwards in an attempt to get party unity?

THE PRESIDENT. One of the major purposes of this gathering was to achieve party unity, recognizing that in some areas each of us may have a difference from the other. But I think the Republican tent is big enough and broad enough to encompass the four individuals who met here this afternoon. And I was impressed with the degree of unity that was expressed by each of us to one another. We recognize those differences, but we have a common objective—a strong two-party system—and I think it will be healthy and beneficial to the country.

Q. Mr. President, is it possible that, perhaps, what the Republican Party needs is a lot of new blood and fresh faces, none of which were in that room?

THE PRESIDENT. We are not kingmakers, Wally. We are simply deeply concerned about a political system where you have competition. And we're not excluding anybody from the Republican ranks who are there now or anybody who wants to join the Republican Party. So you have to start someplace. And this seemed like a very logical place for me to use whatever influence I have to get the ball rolling for what we have to do between now and 1978 and 1980.

Q. Could we go back to the second part of my question, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT. I thought you'd forgotten it. [*Laughter*]

Q. About whether you and the Vice President——

GOVERNOR CONNALLY. Let me inject here that I think it's not a germane question at this point, because I said earlier in the day, in Chicago, that I've made a stronger statement. It's not a Shermanese statement, but it nevertheless is a stronger statement that I see—I can see no circumstances under which I would be available.

Q. Mr. President, did you agree among yourselves that if the RNC selects one of these five or six individuals that you spoke of today, that that selection would have the unanimous support of all of you?

THE PRESIDENT. I think there was a consensus that the names we discussed would be acceptable. I also believe that we might have an individual preference, but none of those would be unacceptable.

Q. Mr. President, you mentioned that this group would meet again. Do the four of you see yourselves as a kind of a council of elders of the Republican Party?

THE PRESIDENT. I won't use those words, Phil, because we don't think of ourselves as elders. I think we have a lot of life left in our political bones, and we will be using a little influence from time to time. But it was a practical way to get leaders in the party together, and they represent, geographically and otherwise, the Republican Party. We will work with others, but we don't intend to be kingmakers, if that's what you mean by elders.

Q. Mr. President, what would you envision that the four of you would do at this next meeting and where would that be? And do you have any idea what you would be talking about?

THE PRESIDENT. I think we will be talking about the prospective national chairman, because the Republican National Committee meets January 14 and 15. But we will also, perhaps, be finalizing some recommendations to the new national chairman as to the format or the organization of this committee that I mentioned earlier.

Q. Mr. President, would you want to be the chairman of this committee, the coordinating committee?

THE PRESIDENT. I wouldn't want to preempt any position at the present time. I want to be a participant.

Q. Mr. President, when you look at the November 2 results——

THE PRESIDENT. I've looked at them. [*Laughter*]

Q. ——the greatest deficiency that your party showed was among black and minority voters. Now, did that come up today, and do any of the three gentlemen, including the Vice President, have any suggested remedies about how to bring black people into your party where it seems you just got skunked on November 2?

THE PRESIDENT. We hope to broaden the base of the party, and there is every reason in the world why members of the black community in the United States ought to support the Republican Party because we offer them jobs, whereas the opposition, in effect, offers them welfare. And I think that's an attractive appeal that the Republican Party would have to the black community, because they are interested in jobs rather than welfare. But this is a personal observation.

Q. Mr. Vice President, Newsweek magazine reported among other things, that the President was not very fond of the President-elect. Are you? How do you feel about that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT. I love this country, and I will do anything I can to help the President-elect and the Vice President-elect to carry out their responsibilities.

Q. Mr. Vice President, do you share or do you have the hope of serving on this coordinating committee as President Ford does?

THE VICE PRESIDENT. Well, I served on the last one. And I'm interested in seeing the party have the broadest possible base, appeal for the broadest national support, and I think that committee needs to have that kind of representation. If I can add something, I'm delighted. If not, I'd just like to see the committee function effectively.

THE PRESIDENT. Let me answer the question. I think that it would be constructive to have all four of the group

that met this afternoon on the committee. But they would not necessarily numerically dominate the group, because if you go back to the format of 1965, there were roughly, as I recall, 30 members.

So I think the four of us could contribute to the work of the committee, but I don't think we should numerically be in the majority.

Q. Mr. President, why doesn't the Republican Party have a broader base than it does? The 18-percent figure must be terribly alarming to you.

THE PRESIDENT. Wally, I think you can turn it around. We got 48-plus percent of the vote, so we must have had some appeal beyond the 18 percent who were registered Republicans. We came awfully close. So we do have a relatively broad base, and we ought to make sure that that 48-plus percent will follow the Republican Party in the elections in 1978.

Q. How can you do that?

THE PRESIDENT. By the kind of a program and the kind of a campaign we ran in 1972.

Q. Mr. President, could you spell out in any detail at all what it is you envision this coordinating committee actually doing and how many members it might have?

THE PRESIDENT. I think it's premature to get into specifics there. If you use the format and the record of the coordinating committee in 1965, it covered issues, it covered programs. I think the best way for you to envision what might be a part of the contemplated one is to go back and read the history of the one in '65 and '66.

Q. Mr. President, will you run for office again?

THE PRESIDENT. Sarah, do you want me to? [*Laughter*]

REPORTER. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:25 p.m. in the Briefing Room at the White House, following his meeting with the Vice President, former Governor Connally, and former Governor Ronald Reagan.

Congressional Christmas Ball

The President's Remarks at the Annual White House Party for Members of Congress. December 9, 1976

THE PRESIDENT. Before I say anything, I would very much like to have the Speaker, Senator Mansfield, and Senator Scott come up and join Betty and myself. We can wait just a minute. Sorry to interrupt the music and the good time. Speaker McCormack, come up here.

Now that we have all of the dignitaries here, let me say a word or two on behalf of Betty and myself. We are greatly honored to have the privilege of recognizing the Speaker, the majority leader in the United States Senate, Mike Mansfield, minority leader in the United States Senate, Hugh Scott, and as an added attraction, a former Speaker of the House of Representatives, our dear friend John McCormack.

I was looking over the record of service of the three people who are being honored tonight and I noticed that when I came to Congress on January 3, 1949, Congressman Carl Albert from Bugtussle, Oklahoma, was a senior Member of the House. He had come 2 years before me. And then I noticed that Senator Mansfield, who was also a Member of the House at that time, was quite senior. He had come 4 years before I did. And then the record shows that Hugh Scott was very, very, very senior because he had come to the House of Representatives 6 years before I was honored to take the oath.

So if you add up all of their seniority, Hugh Scott with 34 years, Mike Mansfield with 32, and Carl Albert with 30, the total is 96 years of seniority in the Congress of the United States. So I think we have with us three of the most distinguished, most experienced, and most honorable and dedicated people that I have known in the House and/or the Senate during my time of service in the Federal Government.

But I think it's appropriate to recognize the wives of the people that we honor as Members of the Congress. I know that Mary Albert did a super job all the time that Carl has been in the House of Representatives. I know that Maureen Mansfield did the same for Mike when he was in the House as well as in the Senate, and Marian Scott did as well for Hugh as the others did for their husbands.

So Betty and I are just pleased and honored to have the privilege of recognizing these three very distinguished statesmen for their long service and effective service as far as our Government is concerned. They are personal friends of both Betty and myself. They have done a superior job, whether I agreed with them or not, or whether they agreed with me or not.

I might add parenthetically, I have found that it's great to be a part of a government where all of the troops, without hesitation or qualification, follow whatever the leaders tell them to do. [*Laughter*] I know that's true on the Democratic side, and I know it is true on the Republican side.

But regardless of the problems that come as a result of a lack of political and party uniformity, it's a great institution, the Congress. And Betty and I had the privilege of serving there for almost 26 years. It was, without a doubt, the most enjoyable time of our lifetime. We missed it. We miss it now. And we wish you all, each and every one of you, a very, very Merry Christmas and the best wishes for a Happy New Year. We will be thinking of you, and we will be wishing you the very best. And I think all of us can now join in giving the proper recognition to three very distinguished Members of the Congress of the United States, Carl Albert, Mike Mansfield, and Hugh Scott.

Let's enjoy ourselves. That is why you are here.

She [Betty Ford] wanted to make a speech, and I told her she couldn't. [*Laughter*]

But let me have one of my special friends and one of the great, great people in the Congress, John McCormack, come up here. You don't have to make a speech but some of you don't know him. Those who didn't serve with him don't know how tough he could be on Democrats and Republicans. Isn't that right, John?

SPEAKER MCCORMACK. No, it's wrong. [*Laughter*]

THE PRESIDENT. We love you, John, and it's an honor for us to have you here.

SPEAKER MCCORMACK. All I want to say is that it's only in America that this could happen. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you, John.

Let's have fun. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:55 p.m. in the East Room at the White House.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

Following is a listing of items of general interest which were announced to the press during the period covered by this issue but which are not carried elsewhere in the issue.

December 6

The President met at the White House with the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee to discuss plans and future activities of the Republican Party.

Secretary of Commerce Elliot L. Richardson met with the President to report on his recent visit to earthquake-damaged areas of Turkey.

The President has accepted the following resignations:

VERMONT C. ROYSTER as a member of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, effective December 31, 1976;

EDWARD A. MASON as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, effective January 15, 1977;

SCOTT P. CRAMPTON as Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division, effective November 30, 1976;

LAWRENCE A. CARPENTER as a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission, effective December 3, 1976; and

OLLIE L. CANION as United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana, effective November 6, 1976.

December 8

In ceremonies at the White House, the President presented a special silver medal, equal to a non-combat Medal of Honor, to retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager, the first person to fly faster than the speed of sound.

The White House announced the eight award winners of the 1975 Presidential Management Improvement Awards which were established in 1970 for the purpose of recognizing individuals and groups that have made exceptional management contributions in improving the effectiveness and economy of Government operations. Recipients of the awards are: Mae Ellen Burney, of Harrisburg, Pa.; Joseph E. Desio, of Springfield, Va.; Sanford P. Lahue, of Fort Worth, Tex.; Dr. Julius E. Uhlaner, of McLean, Va.; Lt. Col. Roger L. Henry, of Dayton, Ohio; Joseph P. Kastelic, of Anchorage, Alaska; Capt. Steven W. Walston, of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; and H. L. Richard Wischkaemper, of Cypress, Calif.

The President has accepted the following resignations:

EARL SIDNEY WILLIS as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, effective November 30, 1976;

JAMES L. PALMER as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Prison Industries, Incorporated, effective November 10, 1976;

DONALD E. WALTER as United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana, effective upon the appointment and qualification of a successor; and

JAMES F. COMPANION as United States Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, effective December 31, 1976.

The President participated in the unveiling of a portrait of former Representative Leslie C. Arends at the Capitol Hill Club.

December 9

The President today designated Garth Marston as Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and John A. Busterud as Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

December 10

The President met at the White House with Prince Gyanendra of Nepal.

Fumihiko Togo, Ambassador of Japan, met with the President and presented him with a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki.

The President today announced the designation of John E. Robson as Chairman and Richard Joseph O'Melia as Vice Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board for the period ending December 31, 1977.

The President today announced the recess appointment of Don Paarlberg, of West Lafayette, Ind., as an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. This is a new position created by Public Law 94-561 of October 19, 1976.

CHECKLIST OF WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELEASES

NOTE: All releases made public by the Office of the White House Press Secretary during the period covered by this issue have been included in the issue.

ACTS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

NOTE: The President completed his consideration of acts and joint resolutions passed by the second session of the 94th Congress on October 22, 1976 (see 12 Weekly Comp. Pres. Docs., pp. 1562, 1632). The first session of the 95th Congress will begin on Tuesday, January 4, 1977.

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on Friday, October 1, 1976, no nominations were submitted during the period covered by this issue. The first session of the 95th Congress will begin on Tuesday, January 4, 1977.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

[illegible]

December 6

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Secretary of Commerce Elliot L. Richardson met with the President to report on his recent visit to strange-the-damaged areas of Turkey.

The President has accepted the following resignations:

[illegible]

December 9

The President [illegible] Fourth Mission to Chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and John A. Stevenson to Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality.

December 10

The President met at the White House with Prime Ministers of Nepal.

Tomiko Tage, Ambassador of Japan, met with the President and presented him with a letter from Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki.

The President [illegible] the designation of John R. Robson as Chairman and Richard Brush O'Malia as Vice Chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board for the period ending December 31, 1977.

The President [illegible] announced the [illegible] appointment of Dan Pearlberg, of West Lafayette, Ind., to an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture. This is a new position created by Public Law 94-561 of October 19, 1976.

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